Ranchers and miners worry about Clinton's public land use policies

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah's ranchers and mining interests are waiting with some trepidation to find out what President-elect Bill Clinton will do about federal public land use policies.

Clinton's environmental policy adviser, Brett Hulsey, has predicted the new president will put grazing and mining on public lands at the top of his new administration's

agenda.

Hulsey has argued that ranchers and miners using federal resources have not been paying their fair

share.

Brent Tanner, executive vice president of the Utah Cattlemen's Association, said ranchers worry about how Clinton will respond to proposals to increase the grazing fee on federal lands.

"It's not so much that we know he's got something planned, but more that we don't know what he's got planned," he said. Still, Tanner believes ranchers are anxious to work with the new administration — and want to be involved in decision affecting them.

Jack Christensen, director of the Utah Mining Association, said his industry has adopted a wait and see attitude about how the Clinton administration will respond to proposed changes in mining laws.

The new president also is a question mark for Aptus, which operates a commercial hazardous waste incinerator in western Utah.

The federal law regulating hazardous waste is scheduled for reauthorization next year, and Hulsey predicted the Clinton administration will support limiting the use of incinerators.

Aptus spokesman Malin Foster said Hulsey's comments were the first he had heard of opposition to waste incineration by Clinton.

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